

**Chichaqua Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**September 20, 2007**  
**Chichaqua Longhouse**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Chair Keith Summerville called the meeting of the Chichaqua Master Plan Advisory Committee to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item #1 – Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Keith Summerville; Scott Rolfes; Sherri Roberts; Marsha Burright; Harry Kimberley; Paul Miller; Jeff Joens; Virginia Soelberg; Jane Clark for Dan Malloy; Lynn Schreurs for Jim Wooley

Committee Members Absent Without Alternate:

Becky Schaper; Rick Kimberley; Bruce Mountain; Warren Nielsen; Fred Noon; Randy Forburger

Staff Present:

Loren Lown (recording secretary), Doug Sheeley

Item #2 – Review of October 19<sup>th</sup> 2006 meeting and approval of minutes

Amendment to October 2006 minutes –

**IT WAS MOVED BY SCHREURS, SECONDED BY ?, THAT THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 19, 2006 MEETING OF THE CHICHAQUA MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE “Lown - Lead shot should not be used over water because birds can’t digest. Lown, the DNR went to no lead shot because a single lead shot pellet ingested will kill a bird.” BE APPROVED.**

**VOTE YEA: UNANIMOUS**

Item #3 – Remarks from Doug Sheeley, Natural Resources Supervisor

Wildlife spotted

Spring – 3 Grahams crayfish snakes found, 2 nesting pairs of Sandhill Cranes, 2 Immature Yellow Crowned Night Herons.

ISU has been researching butterflies and turtles.

- Land management: Thorn Valley – much attention and effort toward controlling thistles and honey locust trees.

- Madden: Wetlands developed and planted to natives
- Buttonbush: berm is being repaired, native plantings done Buttonbush has been refuged for the fall.

Sherri Roberts - reports that vehicles have been driving down the dike and onto Buttonbush. Gates are recommended. A discussion of total refuge size and area of restored wetland followed.

- Doug discussed the buckthorn control effort and the dramatic effect compared to the control areas
- Fence line removals continue
- Invasive species are a problem Canada thistle, black locust and Serecia lespedeza are species of concern. Much labor has been devoted to control.
- Doug asks for neighbors assistance to break infestations

Keith Summerville stated that Serecia lespedeza is a very serious problem. We must address it aggressively. Summerville encouraged staff to work on monitoring CBG land for spread or new populations of Serecia lespedeza. Lown and Sheeley detail efforts to date and promise to expand extra effort.

- Sheeley relates that black locust is becoming more of a problem too.

#### Item #4 – Project Update – Amazing Prairie Festival

Lown gives update on the upcoming Amazing Prairie Festival. He explains schedule and urges attendance.

Schruers asks about publicity and staff detailed what has been done so far.

#### Item #5 – Project Update – Possible Controlled Grazing Experiment

Lown detailed the proposed grazing/haying experiment suggested for Chichaqua.

Areas were hayed this fall as a management tool to control woody growth and weed populations.

The NRCS, DNR, PCC, RC&D, and local land owners are working on a plan to try grazing on an area of Chichaqua to research the use of limited grazing on the biological diversity of a site.

Summerville remarked that recording the changes in invertebrate, small mammals, birds and vascular plants is a very ambitious goal. He said the experimental design will be very important and suggested that careful attention be paid to designing correct protocols.

Several committee members discuss the importance of public information to explain the use of grazing/haying and the need to explain to the public that it is a valuable management tool, what acreage is available on inaccessible and when.

They said our website is hard to find information and would be a poor place for this information.

Lown suggested Julie Probabsco-Sowers might do an article on changing management patterns.

Sportsmans notebook was suggested as was the waterfowl forums on line and the DNR magazine.

Bruce Carney said grazing by cows will be a replacement for bison. It will mimic natural processes.

Jeff Joens – This is an appropriate management strategy for riparian areas. It is necessary to hay, graze, and or burn to keep out woody invaders.

Keith Summerville – it will be difficult to design an appropriate experimental design to measure the grazing impacts. It will require careful consideration in constructing the design if we expect to obtain reliable data.

#### Item #6 – Project Update: Shaw Property Acquisition

Lown explained that the INHF had exercised the option to buy the Shaw property and the PCC had signed a repurchase agreement.

Lown also told of a successful REAP grant that will fund 20% of the purchase.

Jeff Joens stated that the IADNR will write a NAWCA grant for 300-350,000 and submit it for next years funding cycle.

Lynn Schruers – Great work staying with the mission.

Pat Phelan – The community is tickled the PCCB is buying it.

Kay Matson – wants to know if we will fix the fence when we acquire it. Lown stated that we keep our fences between neighbors in good repair and the boundary will be well marked.

#### Item #7 – Summer Research Discussion

Keith reported on his second year of research. They captured two new ornate box turtles which were radio tagged. The turtles captured to date have a high percentage of young animals. Four are turtles born here and one is of the age it was probably hatched here. He will submit a report next May on the research. The money will run out this next spring.

He suggested more aggressive management to their vegetation and to lessen the thatch. Research shows dense vegetation is detrimental to ornate survival.

He has tried to find Adult Blandings turtles but has been unsuccessful. The young turtles are evidence of an adult population but they are proving elusive. He reports finding many snakes including hundreds of bull snakes.

Keith – We need a research policy! When he started working at Chichaqua he was the only researcher. Now the DOT, Drake, ISU, DMACC, and others are working here. We need a policy to direct research towards support of our mission. He suggests reviewing policies from the DNR, USFWS, Corps and others to pattern ours after.

It was suggested that all researchers be issued a special use permit and a vehicle log if necessary. We need to control who is working where, why, and what product is produced.

#### Item #8 – Open Discussion/Public Comments

Keith Summerville noted that several appointees do not come to meetings any longer. Some alternatives are defacto representatives who are serving well. He suggests that the INHF ask Joe McGovern to fill in because he lives a few miles away. Bruce Carney is named as an alternate for two appointees and would make a good appointee.

Lown said this was an item our director needs to handle and he would take it to the Monday staff meeting to discuss.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_